



# Providing a World-Class Education

*"To turn this economy around, we must ensure that Missouri's workforce is trained and prepared for the jobs of the future. My priorities are to fully fund K-12 public education and provide more Missouri students access to an affordable four-year college degree."*

**Governor Jay Nixon**

To prepare Missouri children for the challenges of the 21st Century, Missouri must provide a first-class public education for all students, from pre-school through college. The Governor is committed to bringing educators and parents to the table to improve Missouri's education system. Educated solely in public schools from kindergarten through law school, Governor Nixon knows the opportunities a quality public education can provide.

Every young person in Missouri deserves the opportunity to get a college education. However, too many families are struggling to save enough to pay for their children to continue their education beyond high school. Tuition at our state colleges and universities has increased dramatically, and higher education is moving further out of reach for more Missouri families each year. Governor Nixon is committed to expanding access to post-secondary education.

Governor Nixon's Fiscal Year 2010 budget and legislative priorities will:

- Strengthen public education;
- Expand access to higher education and job training; and
- Implement the initial steps of Missouri Promise.



# *Support for Public Education*



**G**overnor Nixon knows the value of a quality public education and is committed to maintaining vital state support for early childhood programs and elementary and secondary schools throughout the state.

## **Fully Fund K-12 Education**

The Foundation Formula is the state's primary means of funding core education services to Missouri's 524 public school districts. Governor Nixon is committed to fully funding K-12 education. His Fiscal Year 2010 budget includes an additional \$148.5 million for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, including \$61.7 million to fully fund the state's Foundation Formula.

## **Early Childhood**

The economic and academic consequences of failing to invest in early childhood education are staggering - reduced academic achievement, lower-paying jobs, a higher reliance on public assistance, and decreased chances of home ownership. Governor Nixon believes early childhood education is a smart investment, and he will maintain vital core funding for state early childhood programs.

## **Safe Learning Environments**

Governor Nixon believes every child deserves the chance to learn. Yet, no child can learn in a disorderly classroom. Passed in 1996, the Safe Schools Act initiated new programs, such as alternative schools, which offer smaller classes and individualized attention for at-risk students with specialized developmental or behavioral needs. Funding for alternative schools has fallen off in recent years, so Governor Nixon will work to expand alternative school options available to school districts. The Governor's Fiscal Year 2010 budget provides \$3.4 million for this vital program, including new funds for the first expansion since its peak funding level in Fiscal Year 2002.

# *Support for Public Education*

## *Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Highlights*

### **Governor Nixon's Fiscal Year 2010 Budget includes:**

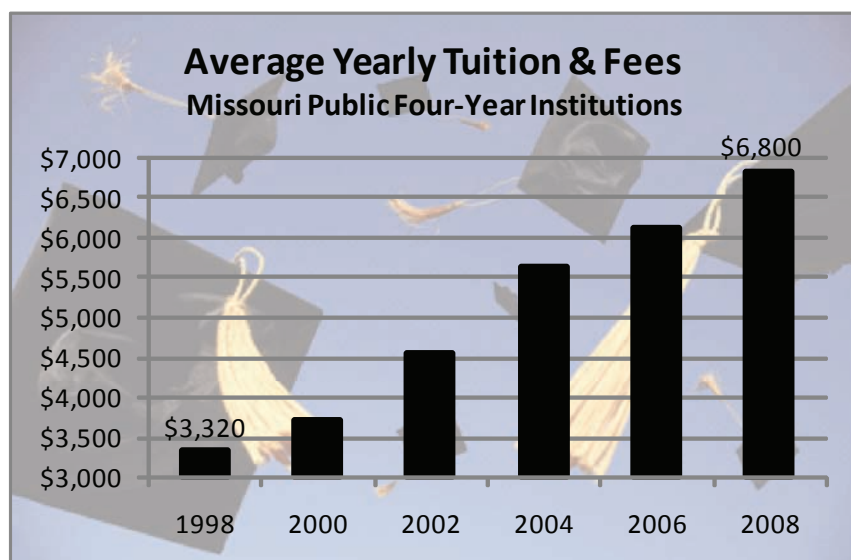
- ❖ \$3 billion for the Foundation Formula for elementary and secondary education, including a \$61.7 million increase over FY 2009.
- ❖ \$37.7 million for Career Ladder, including a \$300,000 increase over FY 2009.
- ❖ \$3.4 million for alternative schools, including a \$250,000 increase over FY 2009.
- ❖ \$50.9 million for state board-operated schools, including a \$1 million increase over FY 2009.
- ❖ \$183.6 million for student transportation, including a \$15.8 million increase over FY 2009.
- ❖ \$219.7 million for school food services, including an \$11.9 million increase over FY 2009.
- ❖ \$24.8 million for sheltered workshops, including a \$3.6 million increase over FY 2009.
- ❖ \$30.4 million for the First Steps Program, including a \$1.2 million increase over FY 2009.
- ❖ \$34.3 million for Parents as Teachers.
- ❖ \$358.9 million for early childhood special education and special education grants, including a \$29.7 million increase over FY 2009.
- ❖ \$25.9 million for the special education High Need Program, including a \$4.9 million increase over FY 2009.
- ❖ \$56.1 million for vocational rehabilitation grants, including a \$3.6 million increase over FY 2009.
- ❖ \$3.8 million for assistive technology equipment to individuals with disabilities.
- ❖ \$52.9 million for Career Education programs.





# Access to Higher Education

Post-secondary training is critical for Missouri students to prepare for 21st-Century jobs. However, because costs at public colleges and universities continue to outpace inflation, many institutions have raised tuition and fees, making it difficult for Missouri students to afford. The chart below shows the rapid growth in tuition and fees at Missouri's public colleges and universities over the last decade.



## **Protect Students from Tuition Increases Next Year**

Over the past 10 years, tuition at Missouri's public colleges and universities has increased by an average of 7.5 percent a year. Around the country, public institutions are planning to raise tuition significantly in order to make up for reductions in state funding. While students in many other states will likely see double-digit tuition increases next year, Governor Nixon has reached a historic agreement with Missouri's two- and four-year public

institutions to freeze tuition rates for the 2009-2010 school year at current levels. This agreement will protect Missouri students from tuition increases and ensure the state's higher education institutions receive the stable funding they need. Avoiding tuition increases at Missouri's public higher education institutions is an unprecedented feat during these challenging economic times and an unqualified victory for Missouri students and their families.

## **Vital Support for Public Colleges and Universities**

Missouri's economic recovery is dependent upon having an educated workforce that will attract and retain quality jobs. In a very real sense, Missouri's higher education institutions offer one of the best means of leading Missouri out of the current recession and back to our full economic potential. The Governor's Fiscal Year 2010 budget maintains vital core funding for these institutions to continue their missions, educating over 224,000 students. It includes \$985.9 million for Missouri's public two- and four-year higher education institutions, exceeding the Fiscal Year 2009 funding level of \$961.5 million. While other states are slashing funding for public higher education institutions, Governor Nixon is increasing critical state support to prepare Missourians for the jobs of tomorrow.

# *Access to Higher Education*

## **Improve Access to Post-Secondary Programs**

The Access Missouri Financial Assistance Program is a need-based scholarship program for full-time Missouri students attending a Missouri higher education institution. Governor Nixon is maintaining core funding of \$95.8 million for Access Missouri. The Fiscal Year 2010 budget also includes \$2.5 million in additional funding for Access Missouri to provide an inflationary increase in the award amounts. It is important that award amounts for Missouri's need-based scholarship program keep up with inflation to ensure that higher education remains affordable for Missouri families.

Currently, the scholarship amount a Missouri student receives under Access Missouri depends on what type of higher education institution he or she attends. Students attending public four-year institutions receive awards ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,150; students attending private four-year institutions receive awards ranging from \$2,000 to \$4,600. Governor Nixon believes that Access Missouri's taxpayer-funded scholarships should be equitably distributed, with the same amount of funding available to a student whether he or she attends a public or private institution. Missouri has first-class higher education institutions, both public and private, and all Missouri students should be eligible to receive the same incentive.



# *The Missouri Promise*

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To compete in the 21st-Century economy, Missourians must have access to an affordable college education. Unfortunately, during these difficult economic times, too many families are being hit particularly hard. Tuition costs have increased dramatically; at the same time, students are graduating with more debt than ever. Over the past ten years, student borrowing has more than doubled, leaving young people struggling for years to pay off student loans. Governor Nixon believes this is unacceptable. Under Governor Nixon's leadership, the state will improve college affordability and accessibility for Missouri students.

Governor Nixon is committed to creating a pathway to a debt-free four-year degree for more Missouri students, and his Missouri Promise program is a key step toward that goal.

The Missouri Promise builds on the state's existing A+ Schools Program to extend the benefits of higher education to more Missourians. Under the A+ program, which was created in 1993, more than 18,000 Missouri students a year receive scholarships for two years of funding at a Missouri community college, vocational, or technical school.

This year, the Governor is implementing the first step of the Missouri Promise Program. Students who have successfully finished their first two years in community college will be eligible to continue their education into their Junior and Senior years at the public four-year college or university of their choice. Under this program, Missouri students have a realistic pathway to a four-year college degree tuition free, and without having taken on a crushing debt burden.

Governor Nixon's Fiscal Year 2010 budget provides:

- 2 years of tuition reimbursement at public community colleges, vocational, or technical schools.
- 1 additional year of tuition reimbursement at public four-year colleges and universities after completion of two years at a community college, vocational, or technical school.



# *The Missouri Promise*

The Missouri Promise Program is expected to provide two years of community college to 19,300 Missouri students and further educational opportunities for 8,200 students at public four-year colleges and universities.

Governor Nixon's Fiscal Year 2010 budget provides \$51.5 million to implement the first year of Missouri Promise, including \$25.3 million transferred from the former A+ Schools Program in the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

